

Bucks County

JULY * 1972 * 35¢

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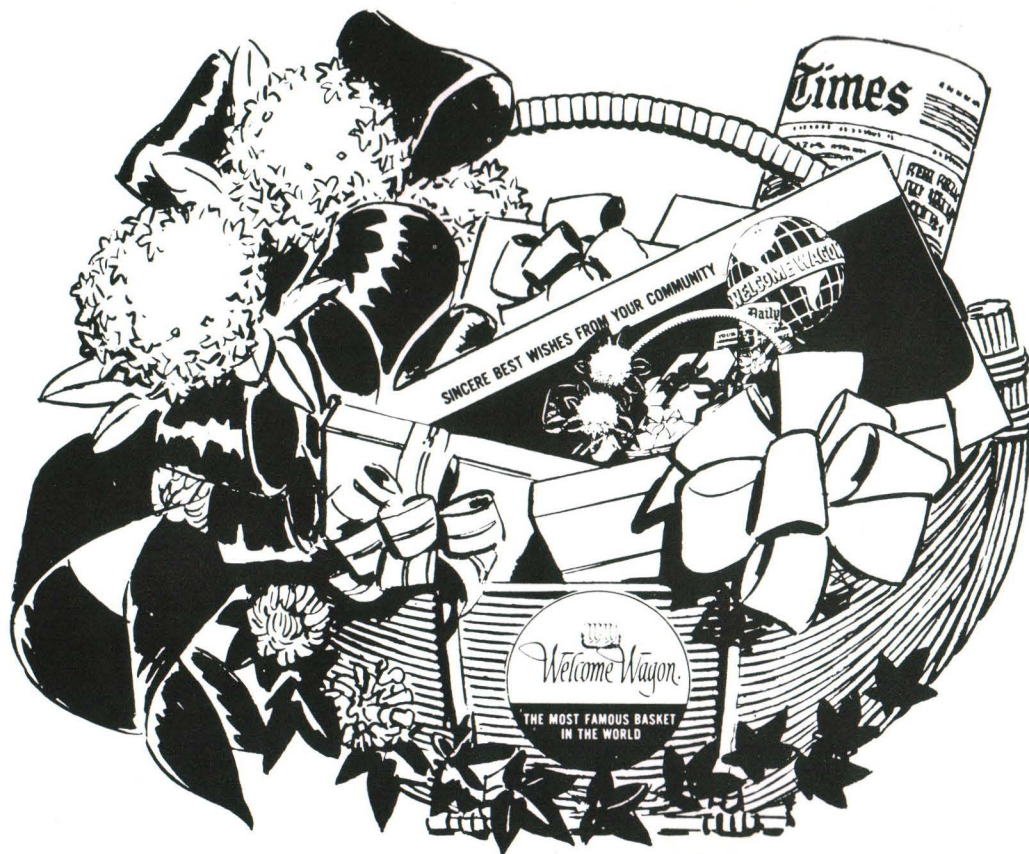


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Bucks County PANORAMA

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

ESTABLISHED 1959

Volume XIV July, 1972 Number 7

Editor: Sheila Martin

Associate Editor: Alice Miller

Editorial Assistant: Pamela R. Lawler

Historical Editor: H. Winthrop Blackburn

Art Director: Carla Coutts

Advertising: Joanne Rohr, Elizabeth Goehring,
June Stefanelli

Circulation: Doris Killough

Contributing Editors: A. Russell Thomas, Sheila L.
M. Broderick, Mary Price Lee, Dorothy A. McFerran

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COVER: The reading of the Declaration of Independence on Dr. Rittenhouse's observatory, Philadelphia. [Courtesy of the College Watercolor Group, Skillman, N.J.]

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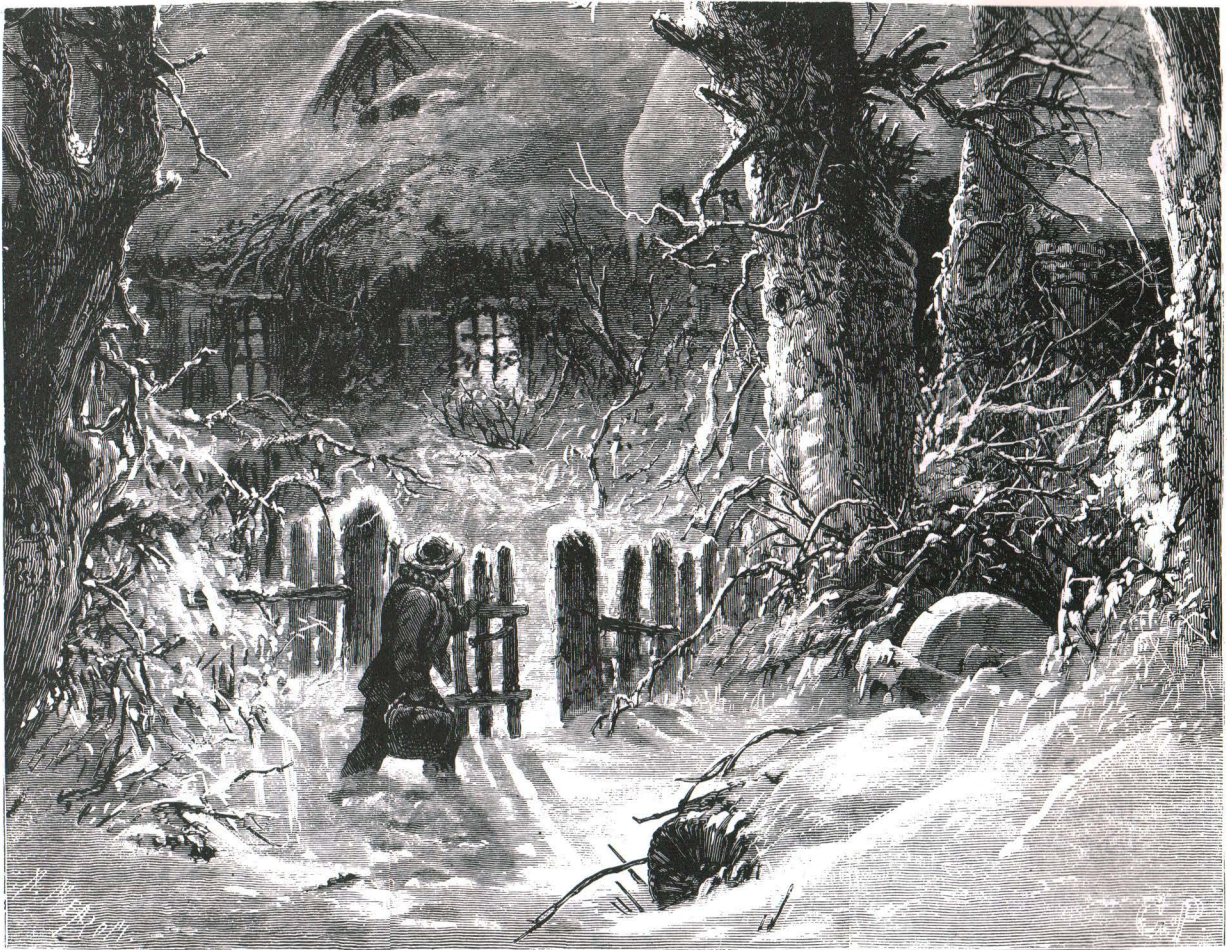
CALENDAR of EVENTS

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission

JULY, 1972

- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting, "Washington Crossing the Delaware", Daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Building, at ½ hour intervals.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson-Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Route 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Route 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to the public weekdays 8:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
- 1 - 31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Museum, 610 Radcliffe Street, Victorian Decor. Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. 1 to 3 p.m. Other times by appointment.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Mercer Museum, Pine and Ashland Streets. Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday, Library of the Society — Tuesday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wed., 1 to 2 p.m. Admission — Adults \$1.00 and children under 12 — 50 cents. Special rates for families and groups. Groups by appointment. Closed January 1st until March 1st.
- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, Swamp Road, Route 313, North of Court Street, Sunday — Noon to 5 p.m., Wednesday thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1.00 for adults, children 25 cents. Special Tours, Group Rates. Closed Christmas.
- 1 - 31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The Country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tuesday thru Saturday 10 a.m. to 5

(continued on page 24)



YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

by Sheila L. M. Broderick

It was the year 1816, later to be referred to as the "American Year Without a Summer." Suddenly, during the second week of June a madcap snowstorm swept in across the land, covering fifteen of the then nineteen states and most of the territories.

Anywhere from an inch to twenty inches of the cold, wet stuff was dumped all over. Before the hard-freezing weather ended, newspapers from Pennsylvania to the Virginia Tidewater and the Carolina Piedmont were heralding this 40th year of the American independence as "The Dreadful Year Without Summer."

Everyone was puzzled. Some talked of the end of the world, others of heavenly punishment and still others of some life from the planets.

There were no rich grain lands to the West to feed the hungry East; no government storage centers of surplus wheat; no relief or welfare agencies; no handouts from any source. When the farmers of

Bucks County looked out and saw their lands and corn fields browned and dead and the housewives found their kitchen gardens withered by the June freezes that would be repeated in July and August; when all around the state the fruit growers stared at endless rows of blackened leaves of fruitless trees; or the miller viewed the oats and wheat buried under ice-topped snow — Pennsylvania knew no cause for gaiety or optimism.

The press around the nation found terms for the ill weather. In New Hampshire the papers were beginning to call it a "Mackerel Year," for there was the best reason to predict that the Granite State, most of whose citizens cared very little for seafood, would be eating lots of fish in place of meat. In Portland the Times said that 1816 would go down in history as the "Potato-less Year," for truly, if any potatoes were to be harvested it would have to be done by blasting them out of the frozen ground.



In Vermont, one of the states to be hit the hardest, the newspapers were displaying the fine old Green Mountain tradition for lusty metaphors. They had renamed 1816 as the year "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death."

The leading newspaper of Philadelphia carried banner headlines reading: "Worst Thing To Happen Since the Plagues of Ancient Egypt."

In Baltimore and Annapolis readers were pleased to note that although the snow was far from seasonal, it was at least white. The snowfall of April and May had been tinted brown, blue and even red, apparently by airborne dust.

True to character, the American did not try to flee or allow himself to panic. He did not attempt to get foreign aid. He stood up to this outrageous tantrum of nature and, as his needs demanded, he gathered herbs, roots and fruits from the wilderness.

If anyone could have been said to have gained from the dreadful weather, it would have to be the Old New England Farmers' Almanac and Register. Necessarily published a year earlier, it had gone out on a limb, gambled its leadership of the half dozen 1816 almanacs by predicting snow in July. Naturally, advance sales brought a great deal of jeering and leg pulling from the prominent newspapers, but other almanacs joined in forecasting the midsummer snows and frosts, thus ensuring record sales for the next few years.

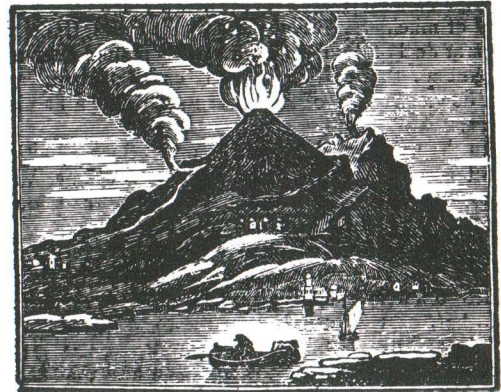
The year itself opened ominously. On New Year's Day more than half the country had mercury readings in the high 40's. By 7 p.m. they had dropped to and below zero. A great many evening church services on that Sunday had to be cancelled due to the sudden and extreme temperature drop. By 7 the following Monday morning a minus 15 degrees was a typical thermometer reading.

From the many records still available, we note that the first four months of 1816 were colder and dryer

than average; they were for the most part clear, and featured abrupt, hard-striking cold waves interspersed with unseasonably warm spells. April was exceptionally windy and had many dust storms along with snow colored by the dust.

The scientists of that day seem to agree with each other, reporting extraordinary atmospheric dust loads. Calendar makers had claimed that 1816 would see two total eclipses each of sun and moon, and that there would be resulting sunspots and cosmic flares.

Scientists from around the world reported their findings that may have contributed to this weird happening of nature. During 1813 Mount Mayon, a volcanic peak in Luzon in the Philippines, had been blasted skywards. April, 1814 had seen another violent volcanic eruption as the Soufriere area of St. Vincent Island had disappeared from the French West Indies. Then, on April 7, 1815, what had been the Tamboro Island off New Guinea had been blown to Kingdom Come by what well might well have been the biggest volcanic explosion ever recorded by man.



The first week of May saw a reddish aura about the sun which grew more and more visible to the naked eye. By May 17-22 more sensational spots were being noted. Then the Great June snow delivered an agrarian knockout to two-thirds of the nation. After a couple of weeks of freezing weather, late June brought a leapfrogging of heat waves and freezing spells. July added more of the same, with the first weeks bringing a freezing "westerner." This topped off a bumper crop of quandaries. Inflation arrived, with the prices of foods going sky high so wages shrunk lower than ever before.

As more and more Americans turned to fishing and hunting for survival, newspapers reported invasions of apparently alien timber wolves. Wandering packs of these huge beasts, presumably from Canada, prowled the increasingly empty roads and lanes of the land.

(continued on page 9)



by Ray Crew

They dot the Bucks County landscape like some esoteric form of fungi. Some come and go with amazing rapidity while others have been around for as far back as even the county's crustiest citizen can remember. What am I talking about? What is this strange phenomenon? It is something indigenous to the Bucks County landscape. It is the antique shop.

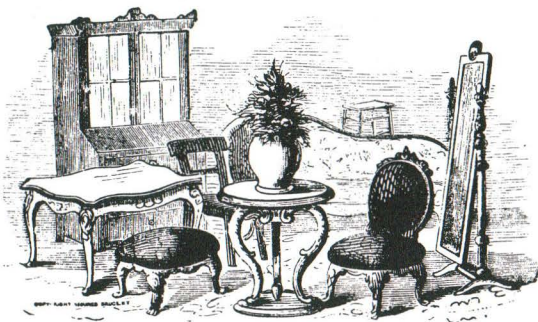
Almost the minute you cross the county line they begin appearing on the horizon like Burma Shave signs. Joe's Antiques, Irving's Antiques, Sam and Doreen's Antiques, Last Chance Before Freeway Antique Shop, etc. You would never suspect that behind those gayly decorated facades evil and chicanery lurk. Here and there along the pike you may come upon an open field strewn with tables which are buckling under the weight of mountains of fuzzy, dust covered objects. This is a flea market.

The flea market, an offshoot of the antique shop, became big a few years ago when it was considered "hip" to clutter one's pad with a variety of strange, worthless artifacts. These artifacts ranged from ash trays shaped like Conestoga wagons to pillows with "Souvenir of Dismal Seepage, Ohio" emblazoned on them. Oddly enough the two groups of society who really went in big for this sort of thing were old ladies and college students. I keep waiting for some sociologist to get a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to study the psychology behind that.

Now please don't get me wrong. I am not putting down the dedicated antique collector or the legitimate dealer but like everything else in this life, there is the genuine expert and then there is the rest of the crowd. When it comes to the field of antiques I am, by my own admission, a member of "the rest of

the crowd." To be very honest, I can't tell the difference between a priceless antique and something that came out of a box of Cracker Jacks. This ignorance on my part was once responsible for one of the worst scenes I have ever experienced.

Cupid's arrow had struck with deadly accuracy. I was once again in the midst of another romantic campaign. As it always happens, this was the girl to end all girls. To put it quite simply I was hung on an



antique freak. She was fanatical about anything old. Her room was like a museum. Over in one corner there was a cigar store Indian but instead of cigars, it was holding a decorated shaving mug, which in all probability was used by George Washington or maybe even Benedict Arnold.

It was obvious that the one way to really impress this girl would be to give her some great antique. That is exactly what I had decided to do.

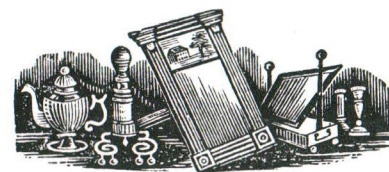
Not long after I had reached this momentous decision, a cold, rainy, November day found me in a genuine Bucks County antique shop, with a cigar smoking salesman breathing down my neck. Now that I think of it, he looked a lot like W. C. Fields. After informing him of what I wanted and how much I was prepared to spend, he lit up like a Christmas tree. "Ah, yes, my son, (why is it some salesmen think that they're my father) I have just the very thing." With this he produced a beautiful china statuette in the shape of a little boy dressed in the garb of the Revolutionary period. He gripped it in his pudgy hand while he launched into a blast of antique dealer double talk, none of which I understood. But so as not to appear ignorant I would nod periodically saying, "I see," or some equally meaningless statement. The sad fact was I didn't see at all. Nevertheless, a few minutes later I was back on the rain covered sidewalk, clutching my first and only

investment in the antique world which had cost me my life savings of about twenty dollars.

That night was the big night. I spent the rest of the afternoon in preparation. I had my electric blue, Robert Hall sport coat pressed. I had polished my shoes until you could almost see my socks. I shaved three times and had splashed a liberal amount of after shave on my raw face. I had borrowed ten bucks from my father, so as you can see, I was prepared to spring for a really big date.

After enduring an uneventful monster flick, I found myself sitting in a Pizza joint on Route 202 staring into the almond eyes of my beautiful antique freak. With the juke box playing a soft Elton John number in the background, I took that tastefully gift wrapped little package from my electric blue sport coat and with trembling hand presented it to her. I saw her eyes bug out like pumpkins as she squealed, "Oh, for me?" "Yeah, baby," I said in as sexy a voice as I could muster. I leaned back feeling magnanimous as I watched her slip off the paper and fondle my gift in her hands. She examined it closely under the harsh neon glow as she thanked me profusely. I knew that I had scored.

Suddenly something happened. I noticed that her eyes were riveted on the bottom of the china statuette. Her expression changed from one of delight to shock and then to rage. She bolted up out of her seat and shrieked, "Is this your idea of a joke?" "Wa, . . . Wa . . . Whattya mean?", I stuttered. "You must be sick!" Her voice cut right through me as she smashed my gift to the floor, breaking it into tiny pieces, and stormed out in tears. For a long moment I sat in hollow-eyed shock, rocking in her wake. After what seemed like an eternity I recovered sufficiently from my stupor to bend down and scoop the broken pieces of my gift, my dreams, my life savings into my palsied hands. Its base was still intact. Printed on it I could dimly make out three little words. Then it hit me. Oh, no. It couldn't be. It was those three little words, "MADE IN JAPAN".



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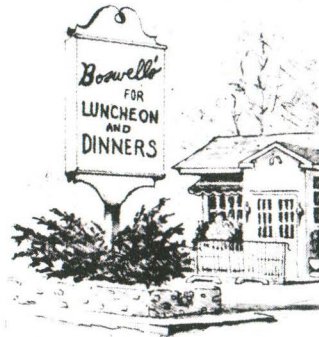
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(SUMMER cont. from page 5)



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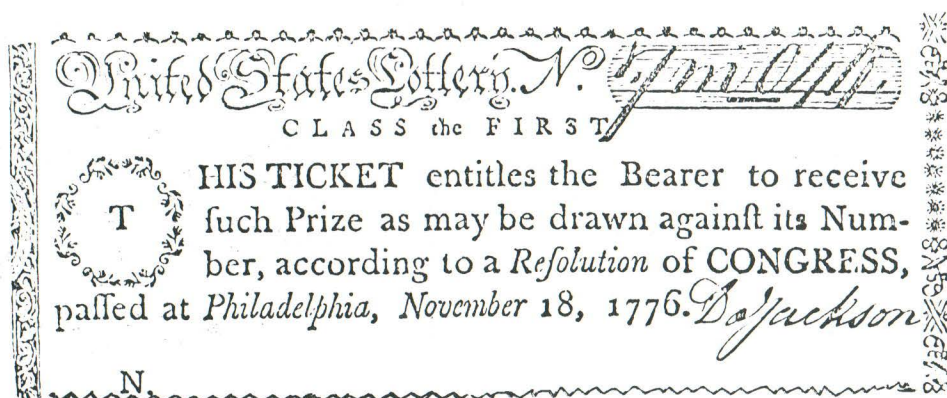
But as man struggled with a new kind of day to day struggle to stay alive, changes came about. The population of Bucks County, as the rest of the nation, turned to animals such as raccoons, groundhogs, possums and squirrels as acceptable red meat. Pigeons, crows and doves replaced common poultry. Many wild plants such as wild sweet potato, Indian turnip, wild onions, chufa, and others became acceptable vegetables for the stewing pot.

Apparently the level of illnesses didn't rise at all, for all the dreadful weather. Medical associations in most of the states reported 1816 as being a year of above average good health. One suggested cause for this being the diminishment of all travel, ever the spreader of contagions.

And still, in spite of all the bitter cold, hunger and fear of attack from wild animals, the Year Without Summer was marked by another terrific change, a change for the good. The mad-weather interval between the Great June Snow and the Fourth of July freeze was to go down in history as the beginning of the greatest religious revivals the nation has ever known.

Another move for the good was also noted that year, as the best selling book, *A Solemn Review of the Customs of War*, with its author and publisher, Noah Worcester, managed to coordinate his world wide appeal for world peace with the founding in this country of the Peace Society. This was followed almost immediately with instant popularity by a periodical called, *Friend of Peace*.

As this era of foul weather contributed to more sincere thoughts of one's fellow man, and also to fairer politics, so it also launched the beginning of the American Era of Good Feelings. And as the succession of fifteen killing months drew to a close, the trees and grass at last began to show forth their bright new growth.



PENNSYLVANIA ADVENTURERS

by Sheila W. Martin

After much delay and debate, Pennsylvania has now followed its neighbor New Jersey in permitting lotteries to be held. Most people are buying a lottery ticket or two and hoping for the best. If there are any persons around who feel that buying lottery tickets is gambling and somehow wrong, let them review some Pennsylvania history.

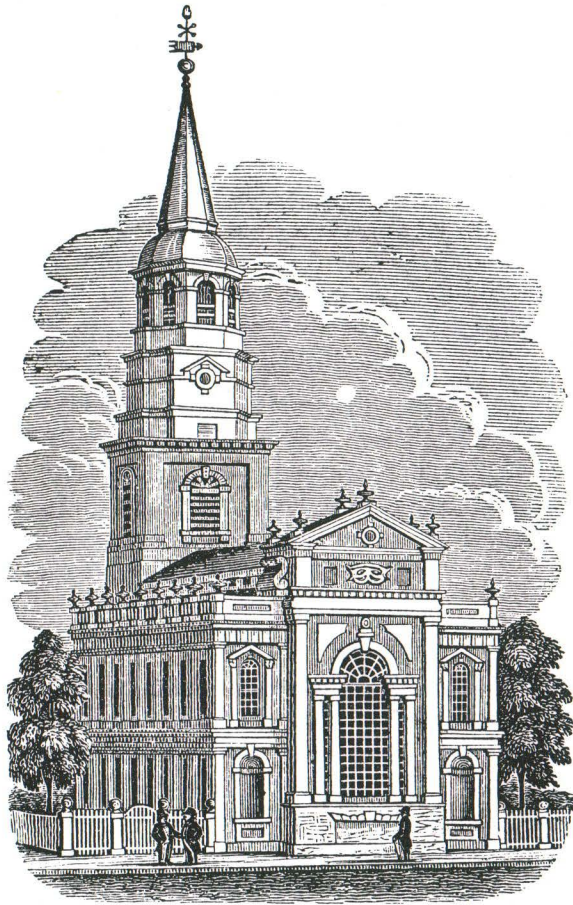
Back in the 1700's people who participated in lotteries were called "adventurers", a much more romantic name than gamblers. Lotteries were most respectable and indeed raised money for many local institutions.

The very first informal lottery in Philadelphia was held in 1720 when Charles Reed advertised that he would sell his brick house on Third Street by means of a lottery. But in 1728 when printer Samuel Keimer, a former partner of Ben Franklin, decided to hold a lottery at the next fair, the establishment stepped in. Wanting to keep the profits in their own sticky hands, the city council sent for Mr. Keimer, heard his case, and told him in Early American words, "No way, Sam."

Under the sanction of the city, however, in 1748 a very patriotic lottery was held. This was during the long, drawn-out series of French and Indian Wars and there was fear that Philadelphia might be the target of armed ships. Money raised by the lottery was used to build the Association Battery, located near the Navy Yard. But even then there was some opposition raised, principally by the Quakers who even read a rule against lotteries in Meeting.

Bucks County not only held lotteries for various purposes, just as did Philadelphia, but even had a large area of land named the "Lottery Lands". This land lay in Springfield Township which adjoined the Manor of Richland. The owners, John and Thomas Penn, planned to sell the land through lottery tickets in 1735. Some 7750 tickets at 40 shillings each were issued with 1293 prizes of from 25 to 3,000 acres. The drawing never took place but the ticket holders were allowed to take title to the land anyhow.

One of Philadelphia's historic landmarks, Christ Church, was the beneficiary of a lottery in 1752 (Episcopalians have never been too straight-laced).



Christ Church, Second St., Philadelphia,

Known as the "Philadelphia Steeple Lottery" it raised 1012 pounds and 10 shillings, roughly half the sum needed to finish the steeple on Christ Church and buy some bells and a clock (Episcopalians have always been a bit lively, too). The vestry had tried and failed to raise the money from the parishioners, so the managers of the lottery urged all Philadelphians to buy the lottery tickets saying, "We hope that work of this kind, which is purely ornamental, will meet with encouragement from all well-wishers to the credit, beauty, and prosperity of Philadelphia." The lottery contained 4500 tickets at \$4 each and was most successful.

In fact, its success led to another lottery in March of 1753 to raise 850 pounds for finishing a steeple for the "new" Presbyterian Church at the northwest corner of Third and Arch Streets.

Education was not forgotten for in 1754 a lottery raised money to complete the City Academy on Fourth Street, and the next year another to buy supplies and endow professorships for it. In 1760 St. Paul's Church was finished through the proceeds of a lottery and soon many other churches and schools, some as far away as Princeton and Baltimore, sold lottery tickets to eager Philadelphians.

But enough of a good thing is enough, and when a lottery was proposed to erect a great bath and pleasure garden (which certainly sounds intriguing), all the ministers in the city combined forces to combat the lottery as encouraging a place of vice.) (Seems the clergy are always there protecting citizens from evil).

Perhaps the city fathers would be interested to know that in 1761, a lottery raised \$7,500 for paving the streets of Philadelphia. The same year a company of rangers from Tulpehocken were finally paid for their services against the Indians in 1755. Their money was raised by, you guessed it, a lottery.

The light-house at Cape Henlopen was built by the 20,000 pounds raised by a 1762 lottery and lottery proceeds paid for bridges over the Conestoga and Skippack. Since a lottery was being held almost every day, the Legislature finally passed an act restraining lotteries. They relented briefly in 1768 to permit a lottery which netted 5,250 pounds to buy a public landing in the Northern Liberties and to finance some more street paving.

The most significant lottery scheduled to be held was sponsored by the Continental Congress in November of 1776, the object being to raise money to defray the cost of the next campaign. It consisted of 100,000 tickets ranging in price from \$10 to \$40 and amount raised was to be \$5,000,000. Seven managers of the lottery were appointed by the Congress who then employed agents in the different colonies to sell the lottery tickets. The first drawing was to be held in Philadelphia on March 1, 1777, but buyers of the tickets had been few and the date of the drawing kept being postponed. Luckily they didn't postpone the Revolutionary War because the Continental Lottery turned out to be a failure. (Maybe we could stop wars if they had to be financed through lotteries — it's a thought).

That same year a lottery was held for the purpose of building and furnishing the second or third Deep Run Presbyterian Church established originally in 1725.

But the new Pennsylvania State Lottery is for a good cause, so come on, you adventurers, and buy a ticket. It's an old Pennsylvania custom!

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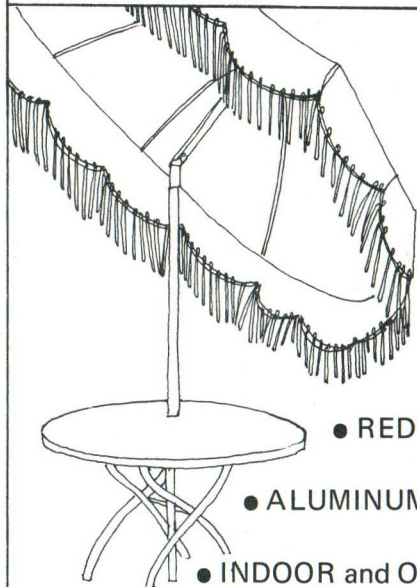
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Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas



THE BIG WRECK

THIS RAMBLER was eight years old at the time of the Gwynedd Wreck and I wonder how many *PANORAMA* readers remember that occasion, November 21, 1903. From an old notebook belonging to my father, A. K. Thomas who was then editor, manager and treasurer of *The Intelligencer*, a Doylestown daily newspaper, I have put together enough data for this column on The Gwynedd Wreck.

* * *

THE PHILADELPHIA Local of the Reading Company line left Doylestown on time, at 10:56 p.m., Nov. 21, 1903. The train was composed of three passenger coaches and one baggage car, all in charge of Conductor Charles Knight. When the train arrived at the stone arch bridge spanning Wissahickon Creek, about 300 yards below Gwynedd Station in Montgomery County, the engine suddenly left the track in a deliberately planned attempt at train wrecking, which resulted in the loss of two lives and injury to 18 persons. Engineer Edward McCourt was firing and Harry Rodrock was at the throttle. Both men were Doylestownians. Rodrock applied the air brakes but almost instantly the iron monster went plunging down a steep embankment crashing into a meadow. The first car was a passenger coach, containing 18 people. This broke loose from the rest of the train and went dashing over the embankment also. The car and engine rolled over and over in their descent and the passenger coach landed in the creek.

* * *

THE WRECK was caused by the removal of one of the fish plates binding the outside rail of the south-bound track of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, and misplacing the rail. Fireman H. L. Rodrock of Doylestown and a passenger, C. L. Custer of Philadelphia were killed. Injured were Edward McCourt, engineer, Doylestown; William Stever, engine wiper, Doylestown; H. J. Dolan, brakeman, Doylestown; J. Swartley, passenger, Chalfont; and a number of others. Rodrock's body was rescued from beneath the boiler of the engine. It is believed that he was drowned by the water from the tank and was dead when removed from the wreck. A special train was dispatched out of Philadelphia to convey the injured to hospitals while doctors were rushed to the scene from Lansdale, North Wales, Ambler and Glenside. Dr. Seese, our family doctor in Lansdale was one of them, who with two other Lansdale physicians went down to the wreck in a caboose attached to a freight engine.

* * *

THE WRECKERS were acquainted with the railroad, it was generally conceded. One of the theories at the time was that the wreckers had planned to waylay the Black Black Diamond Express, which passed Gwynedd several minutes late. The scene of the ill-fated car just previous to the wreck was one of merriment. Most of the passengers had spent the day at the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Duffield near Colmar. The people were laughing and discussing the pleasant scenes of the day, when sudden disaster came upon them.

* * *

WILLIAM STEVER, Doylestown, the engine wiper, hurt in the wreck, escaped death by a close margin in an accident occurring on his way to the Jewish Hospital in Philadelphia. While lying on a stretcher in the ambulance awaiting at Tabor Station, the two horses hitched to the ambulance were scared and ran away. Stever, showing remarkable pluck, saved his life a second time in one evening by dragging himself to the front of the ambulance and bringing the runaway horses and vehicle to a stop.

* * *

AND BELIEVE it or not, the same Dr. Seese, Lansdale physician who was at the wreck scene administering first aid — the first physician to arrive at the scene — was the "delivery man" when this Rambler was born August 17, 1894.

* * *

(continued on page 28)

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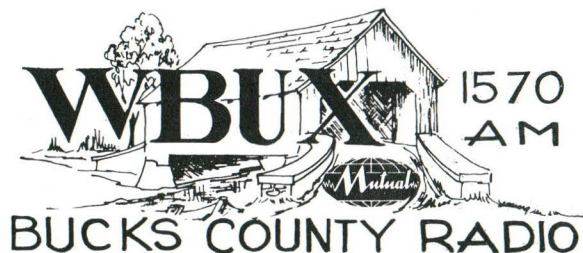
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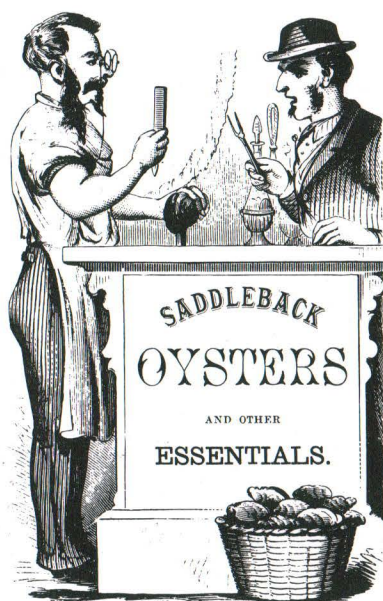
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Bristol -

Market Town

by Dr. Julius Sobel

Bristol, due to its location on the Delaware, was anciently known as the seaport of Bucks County, and was designated a "market town" by the Provincial Government of Philadelphia. About 1715, concerned elders realized that the community needed a stimulus in the form of markets and fairs. They presented their petition to the Provincial Government, but it was not granted until five years later.

Markets were held thereafter every Thursday; fairs were provided for only semi-annually. Evidently twice a year was more than enough for Bristol, human nature being what it is. Merchandise was bought and sold, cattle traded and the effervescent spirit of the carnival prevailed. Gambling, horse racing and sufficient drinking were the sports of the visiting fraternities, with the subsequent merriment, hilarity and finally rowdyism. Crime was not unknown, and the townspeople became alarmed — petitioning for the suppression of the bawdy mardi-gras, that caused such turmoil twice yearly: this was secured finally in 1796.

However, market days continued on Thursdays, and Market Street, between Cedar and the Post Road (Radcliffe Street), was the site of this weekly activity. Later, due to the obtuseness of one side of the street, it allowed for the building of the Town Hall in the center of the street, the front entrance located on Radcliffe.

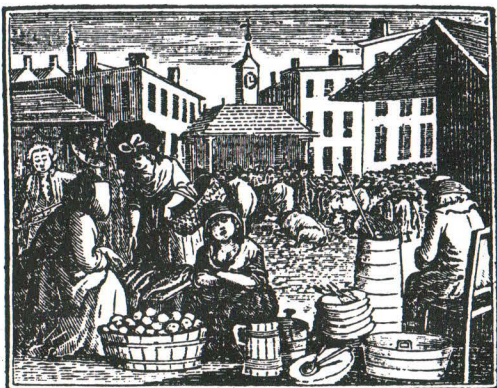
Wagons loaded with fruit and produce, most of them from New Jersey, appeared early in the morning, having made the trip over by ferry. Jersey tomatoes, corn, berries, etc., were as popular then as now. The wagons were pulled off the street, acting as their own stalls, and lined up waiting for customers. Adding to the romance and activity, were the boats that came up from the Chesapeake loaded with oysters and crabs. Since the streets were unpaved, baskets of shells were strewn over them and crushed by the traffic: it is legendary that large portions of Cedar and Radcliffe Streets were laid upon shells. On the west side of the street, a blacksmith was constantly busy reshoeing horses, for the area was



also a parking lot for the Silbert House, located on Radcliffe Street. Marketing days extended, as time went on, to Friday and Saturday, and when customers became scarce, at the end of the day, the farmers would lead their horses and wagons up Market and down Mill Street, looking for final sales.

The parking area mentioned previously, also held the paddy wagon, the arrested ones being toted to the town hall for the decisions of justice. The wharff area that fronted Market Street, was always active with small boats, due to the shallow depth; the larger boats anchoring at the Mill Street end. For a long time, there was talk of a bridge being built to Burlington, but it faded peacefully.

No story of Market Street would be complete without reference to the Town Hall; it's worthy of a deep chuckle. Politicians, no matter their geography or generation, appear to be united by similar genes and the tax-payer's till. In 1831 Burgess Joseph Warner discovered that one Samuel Scotton had left in his will the sum of \$200 to purchase a town clock, provided the council built a town hall within five years after the death of his wife. She lived 15 years after his death and the matter had been forgotten. She had been dead four years and ten months when the provision in the will was discovered, so they quickly built the hall and roofed it Dec. 31st, just in time. Total cost was \$3,781 to secure the gift of \$200.



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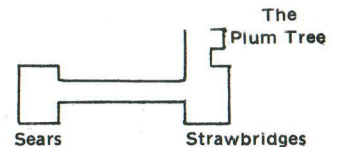
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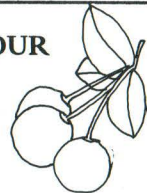
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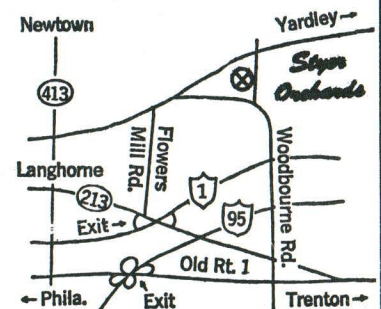
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by Phoebe Taylor



Fishing

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Sketches from Phoebe Taylor's book *Bucks County in the Summer*, available at Gardy's Book Store, Doylestown and the Library Bookshop, Newtown.



MORE TO COME

Henry Chapman Mercer and his creative genius will be honored by an interesting event next October 21 in Doylestown. This event, a walking tour, is titled the Mercer Mile and will include visits to the three landmarks that Dr. Mercer built within approximately a mile.

These landmarks are the Mercer Museum, one of the most unusual and fascinating structures to house artifacts of Early American technology; Fonhill, Dr. Mercer's home; and the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works, where he worked to design and produce the world famous Mercer tiles.

In fact, one of his tiles originally designed by him for the opening of his Tile Works has given the name to a most successful pre-event to the Mercer Mile, Plus Ultra. Held at the Mercer Museum and the Tile Works, the reception and dinner was attended by some 125 people and the proceeds of the gala evening will go toward the planning of the October event.

Plus Ultra which has been freely translated as "More to Come" truly set the mood of the pre-event. An announcement by Representative Edward G. Beister delighted the guests when he informed them that the entire Mercer complex is now added to the National Historic Register.

Sponsoring the Mercer Mile are the Bucks County Historical Society, the Trustees of Fonhill, and the Bucks County Parks Board for the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works. They will be joined by other Mercer-related organizations such as the Doylestown Nature Club, the Village Improvement Association, the Doylestown Presbyterian Church, the Salem United Church of Christ, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.





What's New that's Old

by Dorothy A. McFerran

Looking for a collectible that you can buy by the handful without denting the budget? Something available in incredible variety everywhere you browse? An item that requires little space and is easily displayed in many ways? Try Victorian calling cards. They sell from 25¢ up, can be grouped and framed for wall decorations or displayed in old albums or scrapbooks, and nearly every dealer has cartons and shoe boxes full of them.

These little two by four pasteboards are colorful, amusing, often corny; but always sweetly reminiscent of gentler times in our land. You'll derive endless hours of pleasure just reading the warm sentiments inscribed in miniature on what appears to be a tiny valentine. (Best to carry a magnifying glass to read the miniature script.)

Visiting or calling cards date all the way back to the 14th century, but today's little collectibles have just passed the hundred year mark. Due to new methods of printing and lithography about the mid 1800's, individual calling cards of a totally new design were available to everybody. By the '60's and '70's they were all the rage!

Until then, formal, heavy white or cream cards of fine quality, elaborately engraved, were a custom limited to the affluent members of the upper social strata. Printers recognized a good thing in the small pasteboards and marketed them cheaply everywhere. They sold for 15¢ for a pack of fifty "no two designs alike." Small town and country folk took to them avidly and they became instant collectibles in their own time because they were too pretty to toss away.

(continued on page 25)



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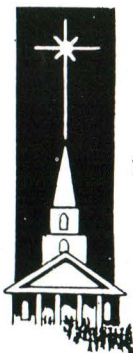
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HISTORICAL COMMISSION

In order to protect the unique historical heritage of Upper Makefield Township, and to prepare for an appropriate participation in the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, the township supervisors have constituted a historic commission.

The five members are: George B. Dyer, Buckmanville; Mrs. Wilton Jackson, Mt. Eyre Road; James O'Brien, Eagle Road; Joseph Richert, Taylorsville; Mrs. Harold Zierau, Windybush Road. Mr. Dyer was elected chairman by the members of the commission. Upper Makefield thus joins several of its fellow townships in adopting measures to preserve the treasured evidences of American history.

This township has a most original historical distinction. According to Bucks County historian, W.W.H. Davis, "Makefield is the first township named in the report of the jury that subdivided the county in 1692. It was the uppermost of the four river townships, and not only embraced what is now Lower Makefield but extended to the uttermost bounds of civilization" to the north. In those days there had to be ten residents in an area to justify designating it a township!

Later, of course, Upper Makefield had an even greater distinction. In the weeks before the tide-turning Battle of Trenton, the ragged little Continental Army centered its preparations here. With George Washington's headquarters just to the south, with General Henry Knox's artillery headquarters and artillery "park" just to the north,



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the "assembly area" for that famous battle exactly straddled Jericho Mountain. Other officers were quartered in the many handsome 18th century stone houses that still dot the area. For this reason the northern part of the township has been suggested as a national historical shrine akin to Valley Forge. "The Assembly Area for the Battle of Trenton" in many ways was more truly the low point of our Revolution than the encampment of the following winter.

Every school child knows that Washington and his 2,400 men and 18 (or 20) cannons had to cross the Delaware to get to Trenton, thanks to the famous



painting by Emanuel Leutze. What most of them do *not* know is that Washington and his men assembled in Upper Makefield and marched across it to their point of embarkation. Along the Upper Makefield bank of the river they assembled their boats and pushed off through the swiftly moving ice flows on one of the greatest and most risky ventures in human history. The noted British historian, Sir George Trevelyan, anticipated Sir Winston Churchill's remark about the RAF in the Battle of Britain by writing of the Battles of Trenton and Princeton: "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting results upon the history of the world".

With more than two million people a year already visiting the Washington Crossing shrine, the Upper Makefield supervisors have no intention of getting caught short by the greater crowds bound to visit the crossing site during the Bicentennial. The Interstate Route I-95 interchanges at the Scudder's Fall bridge are barely two miles from Washington Crossing. And aside from the Independence Hall complex in Philadelphia, no single part of Pennsylvania is as fondly known to so many Americans as the spot where Washington crossed the Delaware.

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BETWEEN FRIENDS

by Sheila Martin



Panorama congratulates two Bucks County couples on their wedding anniversaries — Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hellberg of Chalfont who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dungan of Doylestown who celebrated 50 years.

Attention, postcard collectors! There is a Card Collectors Club at Washington Crossing and old Bucks County postcards are very popular with the members. The club meets the second Monday of each month at the Titusville, N.J. Presbyterian Church. For information contact Frank Davis at 598-7534.

* * *

Delaware Valley College in Doylestown is now accepting women.

Of a total enrollment of one thousand students there are now 34 coeds, and admission projections include a total coed enrollment of 85 for next fall.

In the past coeds were required to live in off-campus housing situations, usually with families in the Doylestown area; however because of increased enrollment projections the College will be opening a girls dormitory next fall to meet the needs of the students who would not be able to commute from home.

In talking with these girls, especially the students who come from outside the local area, the comment that generally holds true is that they really love the Bucks County area. Bike rides through the countryside, picnics, shopping, and horseback riding are just some of the things that they find enjoyable.

* * *

The Associates of the Washington Crossing Library of the American Revolution in Washington Crossing State Park, Pa., report important additions to the Library collections. These are of interest to collectors, students and visitors to the Library in the Memorial Building of the Park. Members of the

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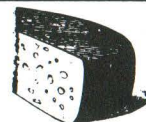
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Associates and all the public are invited to come in and see these interesting old items, as well as exhibits of original documents, i.e., Trenton, New Jersey, January 1, 1777, rare letter entirely in the handwriting of General Washington, to introduce Colonel Glover, the officer from Marblehead, Mass., who was in charge of the Durham boats at the "Crossing" six days before, gift of the eminent historian, Russell Knight, Marblehead, Mass.

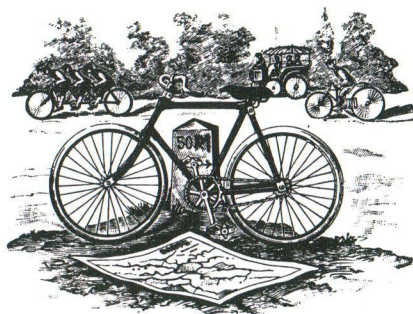
* * *

The Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation announces the opening of a bicycle rental station in Tinicum Park, River Road, near Erwinna. The station will be staffed on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to six p.m., until Labor Day. Bikes will be available on an hourly rental basis at a fee of .75/hr., for county residents, 1.50/hr., for non-residents.


The towpath of the Delaware Canal will provide the bikeway for these rented bikes. Since the towpath runs past many private homes, rentals are asked to be especially courteous, to observe common sense rules of bicycling including care not to litter.

The rental station, located in the carriage house near the barn at Tinicum Park, will be staffed by volunteers from Explorer Post 502, a career oriented


post sponsored by the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation.



The New Hope Health Food Shop has moved down Route 202 from its old location to the former Road Runner Store. Be sure to stop in and see their terrific assortment of health foods there as well as at their brand new branch in the Olde Mill Trading Center in Doylestown. You'll enjoy meeting Mrs. Coleman, who will help you in selecting health foods.



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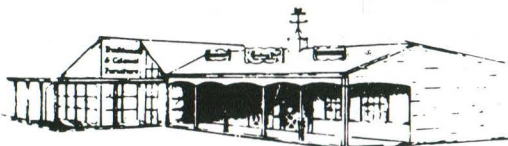
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(CALENDAR cont. from page 3)

- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Ferry Road Guided Tours — Sunday 2 p.m., Other tours upon request by reservations. Phone 345-0600. Shrine Religious Gift Shop open 7 days a week 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Parking.
- 1 - 31 TELFORD — Lockwood Galleries, 345 Church Road. Paintings, sculpture, pottery and weaving exhibits. Hours: Evenings 6 to 10 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1 - 31 CHURCHVILLE — The Outdoor Education Center, Churchville County Park. Open daily 9 to 5 p.m. Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. Special Family Programs Sunday 2 p.m. and Wednesday 8 p.m. Schedule available.
- 1 - 31 PIPERSVILLE — Stover-Myers Mill, Dark Hollow Road, 1 mile north of Pipersville. 1 to 5 p.m. Weekends. Donation.
- 1 - 31 ERWINNA — Stover Mill, River Road (Rt. 32), Open weekends only 2 to 5 p.m. Free. Exhibits.
- 1 - 31 ERWINNA — John Stover House in Tinicum Township — open weekends and holidays only 1 to 5 p.m. Donation.
- 1 - 31 SELLERSVILLE — Walter Baum Galleries presents Spring Show — Theme: "Expressionists U.S.A." Hours: Daily 1 to 5 p.m. Sat. Sunday Noon to 6 p.m. Other times by appointment.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — Silver Lake Outdoor Education Center, 1006 Bath Road. (June 3 to 30 General Nature Walk daily 3 to 4 p.m., not on Special event days) Thursday evening films 8 to 10 p.m. Free.
- June 29,30 DOYLESTOWN — Gaudeamus Horse Show, on
July 1,2,3 grounds off Point Pleasant Pike, Gardenville (Rt. 413). Hours: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day.
- June 30 & BUCKINGHAM — Town and Country Players
July 1,6, will present "Harvey", at the Players Barn,
7,8 Route 263, 8:30 p.m. Curtain. 25th Anniversary Season. Phone for information and tickets 348-4961 or 2111.
- 1-31 HAGERSVILLE — 12-Artists Show at the Joseph Meierhans' Gallery, Old Bethlehem Road, off Rt. 313, east of Perkasio. Daily 2 to 5 p.m.
- 1 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Children's Nature Walk, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, Headquarters Building, Washington Crossing State Park.
- 2 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Adult Nature Hike, 2 to 3 p.m., Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Building, Headquarters, Washington Crossing State Park.
- 2 BRISTOL — Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation will sponsor "Some Old and New Sounds by the INKSPOTS", at Silver Lake Park, Bath Road and Rt. 13. 7:30 p.m. Summer Concert Series — Music on the Move.
- 2,16, POINT PLEASANT — 6th Season for the Outdoor
23,30 Summer Evening Services, Interdenominational program, held on the banks of the Delaware Canal. Indoors in case of rain — baby sitting is available. Located on Route 32, nine miles north of New Hope.

(continued on page 30)

(WHAT'S NEW cont. from page 19)

They were swapped by school kids, cherished for scrap books, and used to aid shy lovers.

Messages like the following, printed on colorful "scraps" which featured a lady's hand holding a quill pen and surrounded by posies, read:

"By this, my handwriting
I promise to pay
All the love that I owe thee
For ever and aye!"

Or, coyer yet: "Hope dwell in your breast."

Surely Mrs. Jones never left messages like this with Mrs. Smith's hired girl when she found Mrs. Smith indisposed for the afternoon!

In the same category as the calling cards, and usually in the same shoe boxes, you'll find many delightful old advertising cards from the age of innocence (long before Madison Avenue). Also keep an eye out for "Reward of Merit" cards.

Many of the advertising cards are miniature works of art. They look like picture postcards and often carry the commercial message on the back only. Arbuckle Bros. Coffee Company distributed millions of these in the late 1800's. Probably most famous and desirable is the animal series which came in a group of fifty cards. It is still possible to pick up the entire lot. They were cherished then as now. I quote from information on the back of a card featuring a "Vlacke Vark".

"...each card of which shows a true picture (drawn and colored by an eminent artist) of one of thymost interesting specimens of the animal kingdom, and giving the classical appellation, together with the English name of each animal portrayed... Teachers and parents unanimously agree in declaring our cards to be the best conceived and executed object lessons for young people."

Reward of Merit cards were given by teachers to good students in one room, red brick school houses. I was delighted (and awed) to discover that I possessed a positively saintly great aunt Clara who amassed quite a collection of the rewards. The little cards usually feature hand tinted cherubs carrying a ribbon on which is printed "Reward of Merit," then specifies for what. Clara got them for everything... spelling, arithmetic, grammar, etc... They were invariably signed "your affectionate teacher." She really outdid herself for the term of 1872 when her teacher penned for "attendance, good conduct, and obedience." Amen!

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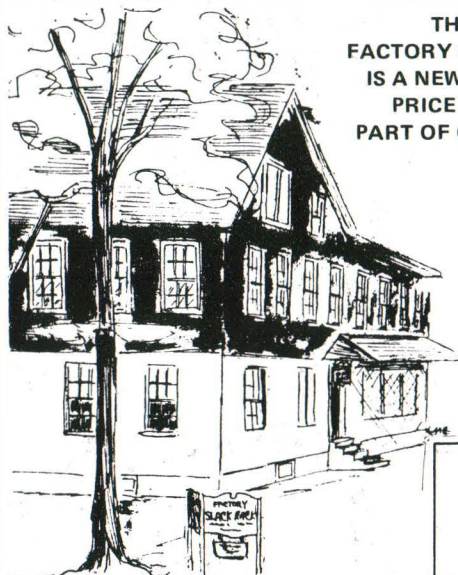
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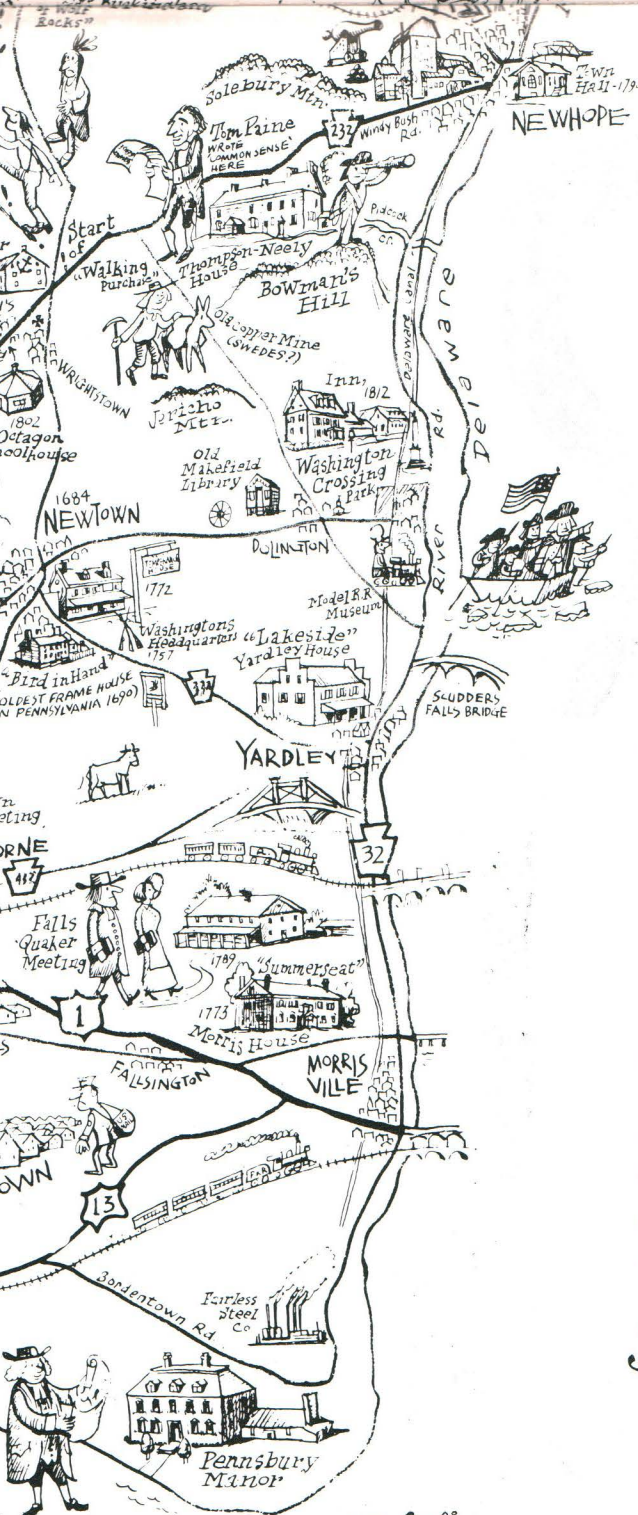
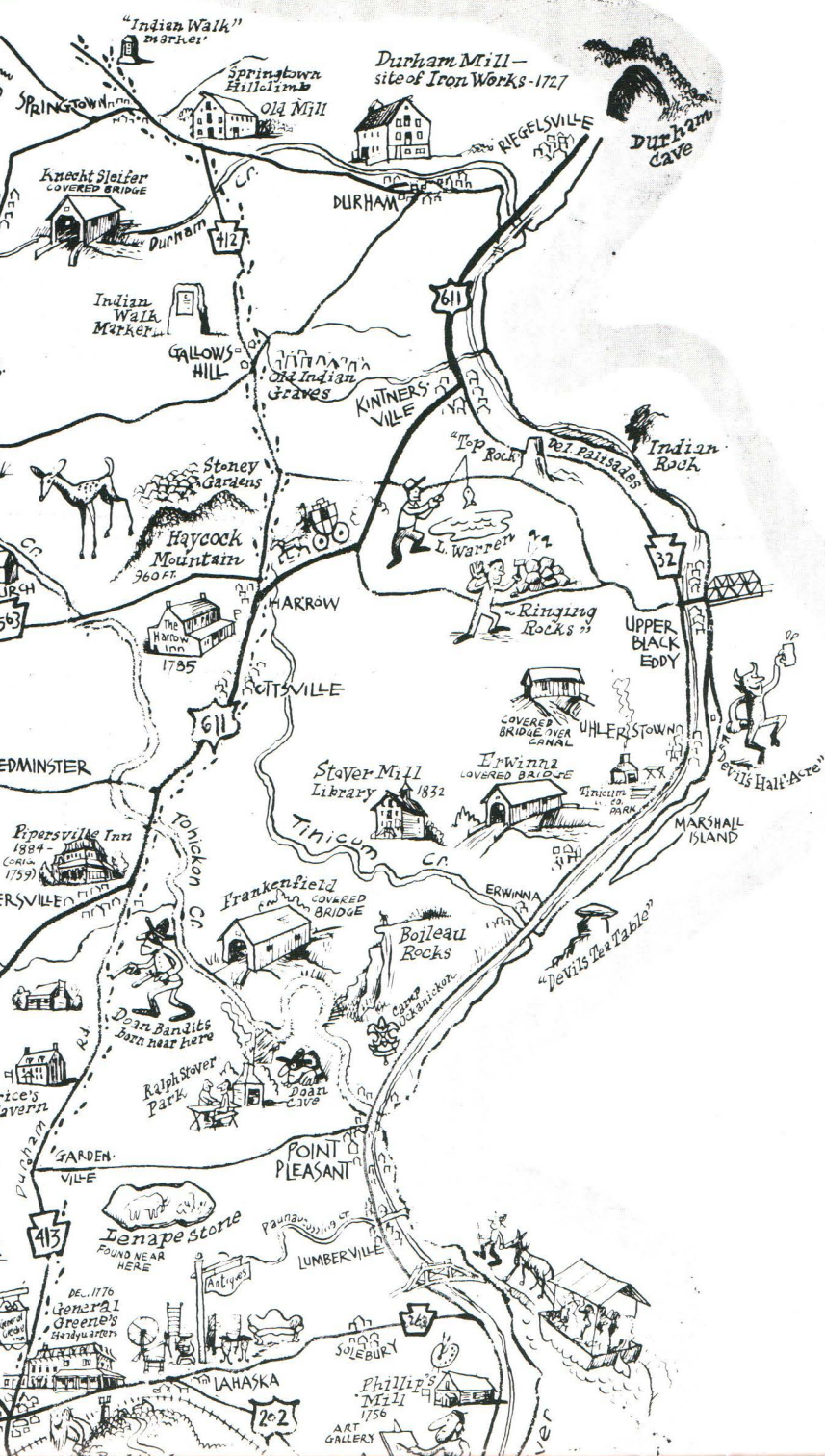
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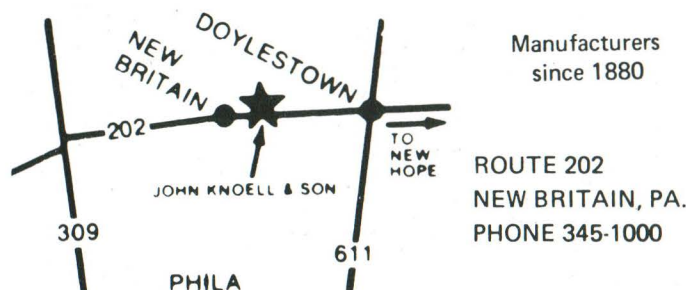
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(RUSS cont. from page 13)

KIWANIS IN DOYLESTOWN

WE ARE delighted to hear that Kiwanis is being revived in Doylestown thanks to Lansdale Kiwanis and several other clubs. The new outfit is known as the Central Bucks Kiwanis Club. Passing of the old club was indeed a real service club tragedy. The Doylestown Kiwanis Club was once one of the finest and most active service clubs in Pennsylvania.

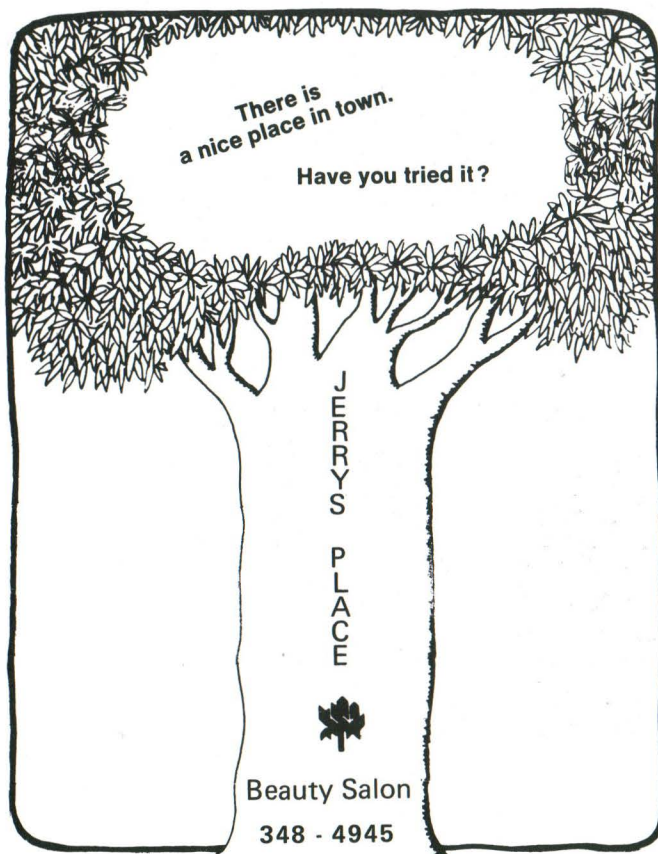
Kiwanis in Doylestown had its genesis in the Spring of 1925 and in April that year a charter was presented at a meeting in the Doylestown Armory with the names of 58 appearing on the roster.

In the Spring of 1925 a group of Doylestownians including the late Isaac J. Vanartsdalen, our first president; the late Samuel Stilwell, the late Rev. John L. Hady, the late Ira C. Shaw, Howard Schuyler, James B. Cotton, Horace B. High and a few others, met with Field Representative Joe Bowles, of Kiwanis International Office in Chicago.

The Kiwanis Clubs of Quakertown and Sellersville were the parents of the Doylestown club. Some of the presidents of the Doylestown Kiwanis Club were Ike Vanartsdalen, Sam Stilwell, William F. Fretz, President Judge Hiram H. Keller, Dr. Carmon Ross, William H. Satterthwait, Farm School Dean Cletua L. Goodling, Judge Calvin S. Boyer, Dr. John J. Sweeney (Bucks County Coroner), Sheriff Horace E. Gwinner (under whose leadership the club won the State Achievement Award), Colonel Nate Gorelick, Dr. John Bridgeman, Dr. John Sigafoos, James Fretz, Dr. Leonard Haldeman, Jenks Watson, Randall Nelson, Walter Carawithen, President Judge Edward G. Biester, Steward Hartzel, Harold Zeek, Frank Worthington, Bill Downey, John F. Mason, Frank Reynolds, Paul Gottshall, Samuel Leaver, Dr. Armand Pomendale, John Foster, Ray Buck, A. Russell Thomas, Sam Woffindin, Lou Brandt, Bill Lynch, Don Toner, Douglas Magill, Congressman Edward G. Biester, Jr., Ed McGahan and many others.

THIS RAMBLER had the pleasure of serving Doylestown Kiwanis as secretary for 38 years. Two of our members served the Pennsylvania District as Lieutenant Governors of Kiwanis — Dr. Carmon Ross and Dr. Leonard Haldeman, both of whom were superintendent of Doylestown school system.

PANORAMA EXTENDS best wishes for success to the newly-organized Kiwanis Club of Central Bucks.



BOOKS IN REVIEW



AN OUTLINE OF PERIOD FURNITURE, by Katharine Morrison McClinton. Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., New York. 1972 278 pp. \$10.00.

This is a book of interest to collectors of antiques as well as to historians because, through the ages, historical events have influenced manners and customs down to styles of furniture.

Written in an easy to read manner, with an excellent glossary of terms in the back, the book covers everything from Egyptian and Greek furniture to Twentieth Century pieces. Over 195 black and white photographs make this trip through time and changing tastes in furniture all the more interesting and informative.

S.M.

A PAIR OF LAWN SLEEVES, by Thomas Firth Jones. Chilton Book Company, Philadelphia, 1972. 210 pp. \$6.50.

The Rev. Dr. William Smith was a man driven by ambitions. Having many talents he was able to realize most of them, but the greatest, the lawn sleeves of a bishop of the Episcopal Church was denied him. He acquired a great talent for drinking but, unfortunately, never mastered the art of drinking like a gentleman. He was nominated to be Bishop of Maryland, and might have been the first bishop of the American church, but a drunken performance at a church convention ruined his chances.

The twentieth century doesn't seem to produce the versatile geniuses produced in the eighteenth century. Even by eighteenth century standards William Smith, Provost of the College of Philadelphia, was an original. While being an eloquent preacher, inspiring teacher, and a brilliant astronomer and writer, he was also an avaricious land speculator and a slovenly drunkard. Although basically a Loyalist during the Revolution, he managed to keep a foot in both the British and American camps, and after the American victory was one of the leading exponents for the virtual canonization of George Washington.

Mr. Jones likes William Smith and by the time you finish reading this engaging biography, you will, too. For all of Dr. Smith's activities and the complexity of his character, however, 210 pages hardly seem adequate.

H.W.B.



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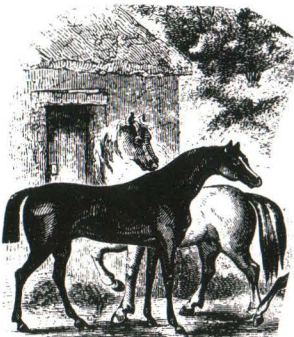
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(CALENDAR cont. from page 24)

4

BRISTOL — 2nd Annual Bristol Borough Community Day, Noon to 11 p.m. Afternoon in Grundy Park and Memorial Field; early evening parade from the Park to the Waterfront area. Old fashioned band concert 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gazebo in Lions Park, followed by a performance by a Rock Band 9 to 11 p.m. Rain date July 9th.

6,7,8

PERKASIE — Pennridge Summer Theatre will present "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown", in the High School Auditorium — 8 p.m. Curtain. For tickets and information, call the school 257-2793.

6,7,8

BUCKINGHAM — Town and Country Players will present "Harvey", at the Players Barn, Route 263, Curtain 8:30 p.m. Tickets at the door, or phone 348-4961 or 2111.

8

ERWINNA — 24th Annual Tinicum Art Festival. All day — Raindate July 9, sponsored by the Tinicum Civic Association. Off River Road, Rt. 32.

9

ERWINNA — Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation will sponsor "An Afternoon with Goodman by Jacque LaFitte Blacksmith Shop Group", at Tinicum Park, 4 p.m. Summer Concert Series — Music on the Move.

11,21,25

DOYLESTOWN — Cooperative Extension Service will sponsor "Plant Pest Clinics for the Home Gardner" July 11 and 25 — 7-9 p.m. and July 21 — 1-4 p.m. To be held at the Neshaminy Manor Center, Route 611. Bring your problems.

15

LEVITTOWN — Annual Soap Box Derby, Woodbourne Road, at Five Points. Parade and start of racing at Noon.

15

HILLTOWN — 28th Annual Open Show, Buxmont Riding Club, at the grounds on Route 152. Begins at 8:30 a.m. Rain or shine.

16

APPLEBACHSVILLE — Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation will sponsor "The Quakertown Band", 7 p.m. at Lake Towhee, Old Bethlehem Pike. Summer Concert Series — Music on the Move.

23

BRISTOL — Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation will sponsor "Inter-Faith Music Festival, Music sung in and out of Worship today. 7 p.m., Silver Lake Park. Summer Concert Series — Music on the Move.

27,28,29

PERKASIE — Pennridge Summer Theatre will present "The Caucasian Chalk Circle", in the High School Auditorium — 8 p.m. Curtain. For tickets and information, call the school 257-2793.

29

BRISTOL — Bucks County Department Parks & Recreation will sponsor a Fishing Clinic and Contest, Silver Lake Park, Bath Road, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

29

POINT PLEASANT — Bucks County Park & Recreation Department sponsors "The Quakertown Band" at 6:30 p.m. and "Mucasic Maneuvers" of the Bucks County Dance Theatre at 7:30 p.m. at Tohickon Valley County Park, Caeferty Road. Summer Concert Series — Music on the Move.

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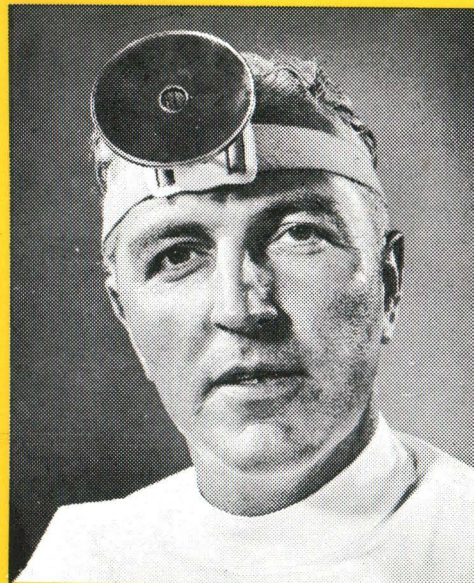


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